

Amitim-Fellows Tracks Information | November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

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Track #1: Cultural Arts as a tool for rejuvenating the community

Location: Naggar School of Photography, Media & New Music, MUSRARA,  
MUSRARA



Musrara, the Naggar School of Arts, was established in 1987. It is a graduate and post graduate school for interdisciplinary art, qualifying students for professional and artistic activities with a commitment to the community and social activism, based on the values of the state of Israel, and on Jerusalem as a multi-identity basis for authentic and experimental creativity.

The school has 160 students in its various departments. The staff is comprised of academics, interdisciplinary artists and social activists, amongst which are school graduates.

The school operates 5 departments: Photography, New Media, New Music, Visual Communication and Phototherapy, as well as 2 unique advanced programs: Greenhouse for Social Activism and the Program for Experimental Music.

Apart from the educational core activity, the school also runs other activities: the "special photography" program and the external studies unit that consist of 200 additional students; the operation of 3 art galleries in the neighborhood, which serves as a platform for collaboration between local and international artists

(hosting photographers such as Nicholas Nixon, Emmet Gowin, Arthur Tress, Danny Lyon, Linda Connor, the Starn twins, Thomas Ruff, Arnold Newman, Andres Serrano and many others), a platform that brings together the local and global, the political and the cosmopolitan. As well, the school is known for the production of the international Musrara Mix festival, an inter-disciplinary and international event, taking place every summer, for the last 14 years. These initiatives attract an audience of over 25,000 visitors a year.

The school, its founder and director, received the Enrique Kavlin life achievement award from the Israel museum in 2011 for their contribution to photography in Israel and Jerusalem, the Martha Prize for Tolerance and Democratic Values in Jerusalem from the Jerusalem foundation, and the Teddy Kollek award for public excellence. In 2012 the school was chosen by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to represent Israel in the international biennial for photography in Amsterdam. In 2010 the school launched the "Musrara Collection" project, for which it was awarded the Zionist creation award from the Israeli Ministry of Culture.

Social manifesto:

The school is located in the heart of the Musrara neighborhood - a microcosm and a symbol of Israeli society, a picturesque neighborhood with a history of social protest, the birthplace of the "Black Panthers" movement, a borderline neighborhood both geographically and demographically; a cultural and social meeting place. The school draws its identity from this source, and lays out an infrastructure for collaboration and mutual influence between artists and art students, neighborhood residents and the general public. All of these factors join in a human encounter and visual research that manifests itself in dozens of local and international projects. The school activities in the neighborhood of Musrara resonate throughout Israel and serve as role model for various establishments to follow.

For more information about the Musrara, the Naggar School of Arts: [www.musrara.co.il](http://www.musrara.co.il) or Dana Shahr, Director of External Relations & Development at: [danas@musrara.co.il](mailto:danas@musrara.co.il)

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**Track #2: Listening to unheard voices in the community**

**Location: Max Rayne Hand in Hand Jerusalem School**

**Inclusion and diversity: Max Rayne Hand in Hand Jerusalem School**

Hand in Hand's first school opened in 1998 and is located in the bustling capital of Israel; center of three major religions and a mix of ancient and modern. The school has grown from 20 students housed in one temporary, makeshift classroom, into our largest school, with a high school that has graduated four classes of seniors .

In January 2008, the Max Rayne Hand in Hand Jerusalem School celebrated the opening of a permanent, new campus, situated in the southern part of the city between the Arab community of Beit Safafa and the Jewish neighborhood of Patt. The Jerusalem Foundation raised funds from European sources – including major donor Max Rayne, the namesake – for the impressive buildings and courtyards .

The school's 624 students form a microcosm of Jerusalem's urban diversity, hailing from Jewish and Arab neighborhoods all over the city. The student body is ethnically and religiously diverse – Arab Christian, Muslim, Armenian Christian, Jewish secular, Jewish traditional, and more. Arab students come from old Jerusalemite families, and from families whose parents migrated from the Galilee to attend university. Jewish students are the grandchildren of Palmach fighters and Holocaust survivors, of Russian immigrants and Sephardic Jews. Socioeconomic backgrounds range from doctors and accountants to taxi drivers and small-business owners .

While Jews and Arabs in this densely populated city live very near one another, and inevitably cross paths, few form real or close relationships. At the Hand in Hand school, Jewish and Arab students become close friends, carrying these connections back to their families and neighborhoods.

Hand in Hand is grateful for the Jerusalem Foundation's ongoing support of the Max Rayne Hand in Hand Bilingual School. This partnership provides a deeply rooted and sustainable framework where Jewish and Arab children engage on a daily basis in a bilingual and multicultural environment that educates for inclusiveness, equality and mutual respect.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.handinhandk12.org/> or contact **Noa Yammer**, Communication and visits coordinator at: [noay@handinhand.org.il](mailto:noay@handinhand.org.il)

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### Cultural Competence and Cross-Cultural Community Engagement: The Jerusalem Intercultural Center (JICC)

The Jerusalem Intercultural Center (JICC) was founded in 1999 with the aim to assist the city's residents, from diverse identities, in becoming responsible, active partners in shaping the development of their communities and Jerusalem's future. The Center strives to be an authority that can aid professionals, activists and organizations in promoting a city that is better adapted to the many identities that call it home.

The two main complementing paths that the JICC identified for fulfilling its mission are:

- Citywide Cultural Competence – making Jerusalem a city that provides all its residents excellent and just access to all relevant services and public spheres.

- Cross-Cultural Community Engagement - active and effective involvement of all community stakeholders in impacting the city and its communities.

The JICC is dedicated to making Jerusalem a more participatory and inclusive environment for all its residents, regardless of ethnicity or creed. We aim to equip residents to affect the public sphere, and be equally enabled to access social, educational, religious, governmental, and health services – basic human rights. We seek to organize and facilitate improved communication between different communities and the relevant agencies and service providers, to ensure the smooth and peaceful resolution of issues, both sensitive and routine. Our commitment to diversity is reflected in the JICC board, in which many of the Jerusalem identities are represented.

The JICC's approach encourages cooperation and support between different organizations that can help create a city that involves its residents. As part of its mission, the Center conducts training programs and provides professional guidance in professional project management, community dialogue and empowerment, cultural competency and working within multi-cultural frameworks.

To read more about MiniActive and Effective Activism, MiniActive in East Jerusalem, MiniActive in the Haredi Community and more, please visit their website: <http://jicc.org.il/>. You can also contact **Dr. Hagai Agmon-Snir**, Director of JICC at: [hagai@jicc.org.il](mailto:hagai@jicc.org.il)

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### Track #3: The Next Generation

**Location: Mashu-Mashu Theater, Jerusalem**

#### New Spirit



More than 5,000 young-adults left Jerusalem in 2011. Recent statistics show, that only 21.7% of Jerusalem's population have a degree in higher education as compared to 37% in Tel Aviv.

In 2003, a group of five idealistic students from the Hebrew University founded New Spirit with one dream: to ensure Jerusalem's rightful place as a young, vibrant, pluralistic and attractive city as befits the capital of Israel. Today, our programs and services reach over 15,000 young-adults.

New Spirit is fighting the flight of young social activists and the creative class (ages 24-35) from the capital. They are central elements in the city's economic infrastructure and serve as "agents of change," pioneering the fight for the city's pluralistic Jewish character. The organization aims to transform the future of the city by addressing its strengths and weakness in the present tense. The organization works to rejuvenate the Capital by cultivating a young Jewish lay-

leadership through targeted projects and events. In this effort, New Spirit is fostering and mobilizing a community of young adults who are taking responsibility for the place in which they live and who are a driving force in effecting change in the cultural life of the city.

For more information, please visit: <http://new-spirit.org.il/en/> or contact Ariel Markose, Director of Resource Development at: [ariel@new-spirit.org.il](mailto:ariel@new-spirit.org.il)

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### Mashu Mashu Social Theater Troupe - Creating a Community and Bringing People Together

Mashu-Mashu is a theater company for social change that works to promote community development and cohesion through stage performances, community-engaged initiatives and creative action in the public space. We regard Israel's ever-growing melting pot of cultures, ethnicities, languages and religious expressions with a sense of responsibility - an opportunity to advance an inclusive and thriving society.

We seek to make the art of theater accessible to broad audiences, reflecting the diversity and multicultural challenges characterizing Israel in general and Jerusalem in particular.

As a community-based artistic community, we are uniquely positioned to contribute to the physical and cultural development of our environment and to bring the effective power of artistic expression to diverse marginalized communities. Our creative projects are designed to engage local residents and provide employment opportunities to emerging artists.

What is Social Theater?

***Social theater*** is professional theater that gives of its talents and abilities to the community that surrounds it. This is a theater invested in social integration and adaptation to changing processes within society; a theater that aspires to micro-level changes and the advancement of the norms and values on which the society is based and in which it believes, the common denominator that informed its creation. The theater's creative process is inseparable from the social processes occurring in its immediate vicinity.

A neighborhood awakened to its artistic potential is a neighborhood that attracts more artists, more youth and ultimately more businesses. The main beneficiaries of this kind of artistic awakening are the veteran inhabitants of the neighborhood, who are given the unexpected touch of magic and hope in their daily lives, new experiences that bond them with their neighbors, and fresh perspectives - sometimes comforting and sometimes challenging - that impact their lives.

To read more about the group [visit their website](#).

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## Generation 1.5

From the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the Israeli society believed for many years in the idea of 'melting pot' where each group of immigrants had to leave their culture and identity and become Israeli. Over the past few years, there has been a shift in that though and different groups with-in the society decided not to give up their heritage and culture but rather redefine and implement the idea of a multi-cultural Israeli society, looking for a common denominator and respecting its' diversity.

Twenty five years after the mass immigration from the Former Soviet Union to Israel, there is still a continuing debate whether this wave of immigration was good or bad for Israeli society: workforce or a community of criminals; reinforced demographic struggle or a threat to the Jewish character of the state, and more - all without knowing the Russian or Soviet culture which the immigrants come from and without their presence in the public debate.

Between the Russian culture with which the immigrants arrived, and the Israeli reality, a new culture was born: Israeli-Russian culture - inspired by both worlds. Russian-speaking Israeli young adults, are beginning to tell the story of the Russian-speaking community in Israeli and are finding ways to make it part of the cultural discourse in Israel.

Generation 1.5 is a young independent Russian speaking activist group that strive to make the Russian Jewish culture present in the Israel public sphere.

<https://www.facebook.com/dor1vahetsi>